

Preface for the second edition

It has been almost three years since an overall survey of distance higher education in Asia and the Pacific region was conducted by this Institute jointly with UNESCO. The publication was accepted very favorably throughout the world, and we still have many requests for copies from various institutions.

The situation of distance education in the region, however, has been changing rapidly and drastically in the past few years, and it was strongly felt that the data included in the original edition had to be updated where necessary. Against this background, we decided to compile a second edition. We solicited all institutions listed in the first edition to cooperate in this venture, and changed the data at their instruction as of fall 1993. I sincerely hope that this volume can be of use not only to those institutions and individuals engaged in distance education but also to policy makers, educators, and practitioners interested in this area. With the advance of information processing technology, we are anticipating to store the data in CD-ROM in future, but in view of the fact that many institutions in the area do not have access to such technology, for the time being, we have prepared this survey in traditional book form.

Needless to say, this is the result of joint efforts of all institutions and individuals who eagerly and kindly responded to our requests, and I extend my deepest appreciation for their cooperation. I acknowledge my thanks to UNESCO, especially Dr. Antonio Dias, director of Higher Education, as well as our colleagues at Asia and the Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok, who inspired and encouraged us to conduct this survey. Also, this revised volume would have been impossible without the devoted work of Dr. Suk-Ying Wang and her team who set excellent prototype of the original version. Lastly, I should express my personal gratitude to my secretary, Miss Harumi Muto, who is leaving this office after she has finished this most painstaking job.

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